

Identifying long-term investment spending priorities; Determining how best for Wichita to grow over the next 20 years -

QUESTION: Prioritize future City spending within the following three general categories of infrastructure investment (Priority #1, #2, #3) (78 total responses)

Spending Priority	Categories of Investment		
64% #1	24% #2	12% #3	Maintaining and replacing what the city currently has
21% #1	67% #2	12% #3	Making enhancements to what the city currently has
15% #1	9% #2	76% #3	Expanding the city's current system of public assets

QUESTION: Check future City spending priorities within each of the following types of infrastructure projects (85 total responses)

Maintaining and replacing what the city currently has:	Spending Priority		
	Low	Med.	High
Repairing and maintaining existing local streets	1	23	60
Replacing and maintaining aging water & sewer lines	0	19	66
Maintaining existing parks and recreation centers	10	38	37
Maintaining existing cultural arts and entertainment facilities	20	35	30
Maintaining existing libraries	18	30	37
Maintaining existing transit system	14	25	45
Maintaining existing fire and police facilities	4	31	50

Expanding the city's current system of public assets:	Spending Priority		
	Low	Med.	High
Constructing the NW Bypass (Goddard to Maize)	56	21	6
Adding new streets	49	30	6
Adding new water & sewer lines	28	32	25
Adding sewer treatment plant capacity	12	43	29
Adding new parks	32	38	15
Adding new fire stations and upgrading police facilities	22	46	17

Making enhancements to what the city currently has:	Spending Priority		
	Low	Med.	High
Kellogg freeway improvements to Goddard and Butler County	37	30	18
Constructing South Area Parkway Bypass (around south Wichita)	53	24	8
Securing long-term water supply	1	15	69
Upgrading existing parks	20	39	28
Upgrading existing cultural arts & entertainment facilities	30	31	24
Upgrading existing libraries	23	24	28
Major transit system/service improvements (Transit Vision 2013)	18	23	44



May-June 2014 Community Discussion Meetings (May 15, 22, 29 & June 3, 5, 12, 19, 26)

Summary of Feedback Received*

Total Attendance - 96 people

DISCUSSION: What projects and investments are most critical to Wichita's future?

Recurring Comments/Themes:

- Securing an affordable long-term water supply for our community
- Maintaining our existing infrastructure and facilities (particularly streets, bridges, water and sewer lines) especially within the established urban core area
- Improving and expanding our existing public transit system will be important to the future of our community (more transportation and accessibility options especially for millennials, seniors and disadvantaged people in our community)
- Investing in quality of community life projects (esp. parks, libraries, cultural arts/entertainment) is needed to retain and attract people to our community

Unique Insights/Ideas:

- Investments that reduce divisions between different areas and populations of our city
- Investments that reduce our consumption of energy
- Neighborhood and urban core area investments should be done in a networked, block-by-block, coordinated manner that integrates all infrastructure category needs (e.g. water, sewer, streets, parks) and helps achieve long-term cost savings
- Investment in high-speed internet access
- Investing in revamped/retooled libraries - "media centers", to enhance quality of life and bring on-line technology access to all in our community

QUESTION: Recognizing that growth in all areas of Wichita is necessary for enhancing the quality of life in our community, rank the following three Wichita growth areas according to which you think **best** supports the future growth, prosperity and quality of life of our community (1=best, 2=second best, 3=third best) (83 total responses)

Rank			
1	Established Urban Core	49% best	35% 2 nd best 16% 3 rd best
2	Downtown	35% best	49% 2 nd best 16% 3 rd best
3	Suburbs	16% best	16% 2 nd best 68% 3 rd best
% of Respondents Living in:		Actual % of Wichita Population*in:	
	Established Urban Core	45%	54%
	Suburbs	39%	46%
	Downtown	10%	1%
	Other	6%	n/a
*2010 Census			

DISCUSSION: How best should Wichita grow over the next 20 years?

Recurring Comments/Themes:

- Vitality, growth and infrastructure reinvestment within the established urban core needs to be a priority. This area has affordable housing stock as well as proximity to services and many cultural/arts/entertainment amenities
- A strong downtown is important to everyone in our community – it is what makes a community unique and attractive.
- The suburbs will remain a strong and affordable draw, especially for younger families
- Greater connectivity and mobility options (esp. bicycling, walking, transit) will be needed for all community residents

Unique Insights/Ideas:

- Identify growth areas that will generate the best return on investment over the long-term
- People look to downtown for cultural and entertainment amenities regardless of where they live in the community
- Future generations will want to live in areas of reduced travel time to their place of work, personal services and entertainment
- Encourage growth and reinvestment around centers of education (WSU Innovation Center and existing public schools) and city parks

Creating an effective infrastructure investment decision-making process for the long-term -

DISCUSSION: *What would you want an elected official to consider when making decisions about investing in new capital projects, modifying existing projects, or eliminating existing capital projects?*

Recurring Comments/Themes:

- Consider the long-term impacts of investment decisions on future generations, and whether it impacts and benefits a larger number of citizens - greatest good for the greatest number of people
- Ensure that the scope and scale of investments is cost effective and right for our community
- Keeping our existing assets up to standard must be a priority for future investment
- Invest in projects that have multiple benefits to our community and/or build upon other projects (e.g. stormwater detention facility that also provides park/open space during dry periods)
- Investments are needed to enhance our quality of community life in order to retain our residents and attract young professionals
- Invest in projects that will help attract better paying jobs and help grow our community

Unique Insights/Ideas:

- The real question is what do we want our community to be in the next 20 years? That future vision should drive our investment decisions and priorities – the challenge is that the long-term community vision will be different for different people
- It is important to find balance in future investment decisions and to be flexible/adaptable to changing circumstances
- Ask whether our community can afford not to do the project or make this investment
- What are the investment trade-offs and down-sides of a project? How will this project take away from other important projects?
- Make targeted investments that will help people say, ‘this is the place where I want to live, work and play.’
- Do a return-on-investment calculation on the basis of ‘benefit per capita’
- Ensure that investments help foster and develop a healthy and safe community

Establishing important infrastructure investment decision-making criteria and considerations -

QUESTION: *Listed below are important criteria and considerations to guide future community infrastructure investment spending and cost-reduction decisions. Please check the two (2) **most** important and the two (2) **least** important. (83 total responses)*

Importance		<u>Decision-making criteria & considerations</u>
<u>Least</u>	<u>Most</u>	
5	35	Promotes economic growth and job creation
9	44	Advances our community quality of life
7	22	Advances community health and safety
7	44	Creates a place where future generations will want to live, work and play
52	2	Priority as identified in existing adopted plans (e.g. the city/county comprehensive plan)
35	11	Essential for the future physical growth and development of our community
16	17	Demonstrated ability and commitment to maintain the project
13	7	Other (various items)

DISCUSSION: *What are the most important decision-making criteria?*

Recurring Comments/Themes:

- Enhancing the quality of life in our community so as to create a place where people will want to live, work and play
- Promoting economic growth/development and new job creation – creating a diversity of good jobs
- Advancing the public health and safety of our community - protecting our air and water quality
- Maintaining flexibility in order to seize opportunities and make good investments – can’t be locked into existing plan priorities



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Unique Insights/Ideas:

- Quality of life investments, economic growth and creating a future place where people want to live, work and play are inter-related. Without good jobs, there is nothing to attract people, and the quality of life investments cannot be sustained
- Use a holistic approach to creating quality of life in our community
- Advancing our community quality of life is important – Koch Industries has hundreds of well-paying jobs here in Wichita that they can't fill
- Just because citizens want a project or investment doesn't necessarily mean it is a good investment for our community
- Invest in projects that reinvest in our community and help to build our identity
- Invest to help support a strong public school system
- Review the history of past investments and determine which have had the greatest benefit to the community

Any other things or issues needing to be addressed or considered in the Community Investments Plan? -

DISCUSSION:

Recurring Comments/Themes:

- Wichita needs to establish and improve its regional/national brand, image and identity (outsiders have a false impression of our community) – promote what we have to offer as a community
- High-speed internet access is critical to the future of our community
- Passenger rail connections to our community will be important in the future
- Need to create more walkable neighborhoods
- Need to support healthy local food systems

Unique Insights/Ideas:

- Within the 20-year plan, set shorter-term (3 to 5 year) investment priorities that can be reviewed annually
- Co-ordinate with other jurisdictions (municipal and school) on major infrastructure or facility planning and decision-making
- Create 'street soccer' facilities by re-using older, under-utilized city tennis courts